

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Forging Faith, Following Jesus

Session #6 Jesus the Father's Delight

Matthew Chapter 17 Verses 1-8

"Come, follow me, Jesus said..." – Mark 1v 17

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

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Introduction and Aim of this Teaching Series:

We are followers of “*The Way*” (Acts 9v 2; 22v 4; 24v 14). Being Christian is not about adhering to strict rules or attaining some kind of spiritual superiority, nor is it about anything particularly religious. Following Jesus means exactly that. He simply says, “*Follow me*” (Mark 1v 17) offering us an invitation to go God’s way instead of our own. In order to do this, we look to the Lord and, by faith, seek to walk in the Way marked out by Christ Himself. However, Jesus never expected anyone to attempt what He would not do. So, as we trust His lead and look to His example, we can begin to make spiritual strides on the roads to maturity.

By following in the footsteps of Jesus, we discover more about who He is and what He would have us do. *How did Jesus act? What motivated Him? What are the priorities He wants us focus on?* One thing is for sure, there can be no standing still in the Christian life! If someone seeks to walk with you and you lag behind, steam on ahead, or even attempt an alternative route, you no longer walk together!

In this short series, we will attempt to look at some lessons from the life of Christ: Each week studying Christ’s own example to see how He exemplified what He now calls us to do. For us to grow as a church, we will need to go beyond the sermon, seeking to apply these principles in our own lives. To help in this, there are some discussion questions and practical opportunities to explore further in these notes.

The only evidence of Christian growth in our lives is how much we are becoming like Jesus. This challenge should be one that continues to inspire our Christian walk through life until, in a coming day, we present all that we have done before Christ Himself. So may these life lessons from Jesus help us to forge faith, by following Christ.

Lessons from the Life of Christ #6: Jesus the Father's Delight

Direct interactions between God the Father and God the Son are surprisingly few in the Gospels. Of course, Jesus was in constant communion with His Father and knew the Spirit's leading in a way that none could rival. But there are only two recorded instances where The Father breaks in audibly to commend His Son and all He was set to do during His time on earth.

The first, at the river Jordan, (Matthew 3) is where John the Baptist had the privilege of baptising Jesus. The hallowed scene that unfolded is graced with the Spirit's dove-like presence, settling on Jesus as He rose, anointed for His unique ministry. But it is also the resonant voice of the Father that rends the heavens saying: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (v17,) that makes it so memorable.

Now at the mount of transfiguration Peter, James and John witness Jesus in conversation with the Law-Giver, Moses and the mighty prophet, Elijah. But again it is the voice from heaven that focuses all eyes on the central figure in this scene: In words reminiscent of Jesus' baptism, the Father exhorts them again to look to the Son and listen to Him.

Read: Matthew Chapter 17 verses 1-8

- **Jesus' Transfiguration: Look! – v2**
- **Peter's Intention: Learn! – v3**
- **God's Instruction: Listen! – v5**

The transfiguration of Jesus must have been incredible; there, before those privileged disciples, Jesus shone as a radiant reminder that He was both worthy, willing and able to carry out the mission He had predicted He would under a week ago. (16v 21) If any doubt remained, His inner-apostolic circle was given this staggering spur to take that message on.

The occasion is characterised by three things: first, a vision of the glorified Christ. Many claims were being made at the time by various other "christs" Yet, here, undeniably, Jesus stands apart. Second, even Moses and Elijah are subject to Him, because Jesus fulfils the law and comes as the greatest prophet. Third, such things demand that every ear and eye focus on "no-one except Jesus." John Stott rightly called Jesus "The Incomparable Christ." Such a scene of transfiguration should continue to draw Christians of all generations to heed the Father's voice, fix our eyes upon Jesus the mighty Saviour and desire to learn of Him.

Jesus: The Father's Delight

Jesus is the centre and source of the Father's eternal delight. At both the commencement of His ministry and as it drew to its climatic close, all heaven, along with a privileged few, turned to acknowledge the One in whom God was "well pleased." As we look to Christ and follow Him, we too should seek the Father's commendation, seeking to live pleasing lives for Christ. Does my life reflect the amazing truths revealed in the transfiguration and does my response bring delight to the Father?

Delighting the Father:

- Remember the radiance of Christ: *Look to Jesus*
- Realise the role of Christ: *Learn about Jesus*
- Respond to the call of Christ: *Listen to Jesus*

Forging Faith by Following Christ:

- *What do you think a life that pleases God looks like?*
- *Why do you think Jesus only took Peter, James and John to witness His transfiguration?*
- *Why do you think Jesus was transfigured?*
- *Why do you think it was Moses and Elijah who joined Jesus in this transfigured experience?*
- *How do you think Peter could recognise Moses and Elijah?*
- *What do you think the transfiguration of Jesus is meant to teach you about following Christ??*
- *What lessons do you think you still need to learn from the life of Christ?*
- *Where do you think Jesus is asking you to follow Him in the days ahead? Are there any general revelations about the Christian life that need addressing in you, or any specific things that you need to go away and pray about personally?*
- *As this series draws to a close and as you think again about how you choose to express your Christian life. Spend some time recommitting yourself to Christ in prayer.*